EARTH SURFACE PROCESSES AND LANDFORMS, VOL. 21, 581–586 (1995)

BOOK REVIEWS

HYDROGEOLOGICAL PROCESSES IN KARST TERRANES edited by G. Gunay, A. I. Johnson and W. Back, International Association of Hydrological Sciences, Publication No. 207, IAHS Press, Wallingford, 1993. No. of pages: xi + 412. Price: £38·00 ($60·00). ISBN 0-947571-28-0.

This volume consists of the proceedings of an international symposium and field seminar held in Antalya, Turkey, in 1990. This is the second such volume, papers from the earlier (1985) conference also being published by IAHS as Publication No. 161. As might be expected in such a volume, there is a considerable range in the style, content and quality of papers included. A particular theme is the development of numerical models, ranging from those that are simply descriptive (for instance, of recession curves or flood frequencies) to those that incorporate considerable understanding of aquifer structure and process. Of particular interest here are the studies of Teutsch and Sauter on the development of double porosity models, and their calibration from aquifer and tracer tests (see also Dzikowski *et al.*). There are also a number of reviews, either of regional studies (such as that of Custodio *et al.* dealing with Southern Catalonia) which have the merit of introducing the wider international audience to extensive work not previously published in international journals, or of specific topics (such as that of Plata on tracing techniques). The majority of papers are, however, case studies, which examine diverse problems including dam integrity, hydrogeological interpretation of geochemical data, and aspects of the hydrogeology of specific aquifer systems. Some of these are of considerable interest, but others are of only local importance and/or lack technical rigour. Given the cost of publication and the increasing volume of international literature, it is a pity that a rather more severe editorial policy is not applied to volumes such as this in order to sort the good from the merely mediocre and frankly bad.

Editors and publishers also have a duty to ensure that the quality of reproduction is adequate. This is not the case in this volume, which was apparently prepared from camera-ready copy. The reproduction of some figures is so poor as to render them completely illegible; this affects 11 of the 39 papers so severely that comprehension of the paper is difficult, and another eight papers have at least one figure of inadequate quality (perhaps purchasers should ask for their money back, on the basis that the book is not of serviceable quality?). In some cases the blame can be laid firmly with the authors, who are responsible for poor selection of stipple, overlay of lettering on stipple, inadequate line thickness and lettering size. Nevertheless, it is the duty of the editors to identify such inadequacies and request remediation. In addition, some of these problems result from excessive reduction. In the paper by Forti *et al.*, for instance, maps and sections are mostly unreadable, yet are reproduced at a width of 8·5 cm, compared with the text width of 13 cm. If this was to save space, then why does the article terminate half-way down a blank page, and why is it then followed by a completely empty page as a leader to the next paper? Such primary consideration of style before legibility is totally misplaced, and I am surprised that IAHS have not produced a better volume.

P. L. SMART
Department of Geography
University of Bristol

SURFICIAL PROCESSES AND LANDSCAPE EVOLUTION: RIFT VALLEYS AND ARID TERRAINS edited by Asher P. Schick, Laser Pages Publishing, Jerusalem, 1992. (Reprinted from the *Israel Journal of Earth Sciences*, **41**(2–4), 1992.) Price: $65. ISBN 965-222-324-7.

This volume commemorates the life and work of Ran Gerson, late of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. As the title suggests, it collects together a number of papers that cover, between them, a fairly wide spectrum of geomorphology. Authorship includes not only some of Ran's Israeli colleagues, both physical geographers and geologists, but also a wide range of friends from various places around the world, some of whom had been host to Ran during periods of sabbatical leave.

There is considerable diversity, and this reflects Ran's own broad range of interests. So, 'large' and 'tectonic' are represented by Victor Baker, Valentina Finn and Goro Komatsu's explanation of continental-scale drainage patterns as a product of the crustal uplift associated with mantle plumes, while Don Adamson, Rosanna McEvedy and Martin Williams, and Paul Shaw and